**Opening of New Post Offices in Bombay**

1382. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to open New Post Offices in money places in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the places;

(c) if so, what are those places;

(d) by when Government propose to open Post Offices at each of these places; and

(e) what improvements Government propose to implement in the Postal Department in Bombay during the next three years; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Accordingly, the Department has already sanctioned 7 departmental sub post offices during 1992-93 in Bombay. It is also proposed to open 2 more departmental sub post offices during 1993-94. The details of these places are as under:—

| | Sanctioned during 1992-93 | Proposed to be opened in 1993-94 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Evershine Nagar | Gokuldham |
| 2. | Kastur Part | Marolnaka |
| 3. | Amrut Nagar | |
| 4. | P.L. Lokhandi Marg Chembur | |
| 5. | PMG(P) Colony | |
| 6. | Dyocnam Nagar | |
| 7. | Chitra Camp | |

(d) In the case of these sanctioned post offices, the Department has already issued tender notices and approached various Centre/State/local bodies to provide suitable accommodation. As and when suitable accommodation is made available, the post offices will be opened.

(e) Various measures for improvement are planned to be implemented progressively in Bombay which include provision of multi-purpose counter machines, upgrading the technology of equipments use, computerisation of selected departments within the post office such as the Savings Bank, and construction of Post Office buildings.

**Procuring Telecom Equipment on Deferred Payment**

1383. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's decision to procure telecom equipments on deferred payment basis has proved to be a non-starter with reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the offers of some foreign company for supplier's credit for switching equipments were rejected as these were not found cheaper than leasing option; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost is the same both under the leasing and deferred payment options;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no company is likely to fall into the Telecom Commission's trap, barring rejected equipment suppliers; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to procure the badly needed switching equipments under these circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. Deferred payment options have been considered for some telecom. equipment.

(b) Offers of deferred payment were obtained from eligible suppliers of large switching equipment and were compared with the best leasing offers already available. The deferred payment offer of only one supplier was found better than leasing but entailed payment in terms of foreign currency for many years and was not accepted.

(c) Equipment cost is the same in both the cases. However leasting option has been found cheaper than deferred payment except to the extent indicated in part (b).

(d) There is no trap laid by the Telecom Commission. Offers of leasing and deferred payment have been called from eligible, technically compliant suppliers.

(e) Switching equipment of various sizes are being procured on direct payment as well as on lease financing basis.

**Telephone Exchanges, Posts and Telegraph Offices in Punjab**

1384. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the post offices, telegraph offices and the telephone exchanges in the State of Punjab at present;

(b) whether their number is adequate as per the population of the State;

(c) if not the steps taken by Government for increasing their number during the last three years and what steps are proposed to be taken during the last year 1994 to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The district-wise details of the post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the State of Punjab are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) *Post Offices*: Yes, Sir. Post offices are opened based on justification and availability of resources.

(b & (c) No, Sir. During the last 3 years, 4 telegraph offices and 103 telephone exchanges have been opened.

It is proposed to open 3 telegraph offices and 61 telephone exchanges during 1993-94 subject to availability of equipment, accommodation and funds

(c) *Post Offices*: 89 post offices were opened during the last 3 years. It is targeted to open 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices during the year 1993-94.

*District-wise details of the post offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in the State of Punjab*

| Sl. No. | Name of District | Post Offices | Telegraph Offices | Telephone Exchanges |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Amritsar | 480 | 2 | 67 |
| 2 | Bhatinda | 140 | 1 | 18 |
| 3 | Faridkot | 338 | 2 | 59 |
| 4 | Fatehgarh Sahib* | — | — | 14 |
| 5 | Ferozopur | 299 | 2 | 62 |
| 6 | Gurdaspur | 280 | 3 | 47 |
| 7 | Hoshiarpur | 424 | 1 | 46 |
| 8 | Jalandhar | 492 | 2 | 68 |
| 9 | Kapurthala | 131 | 1 | 19 |
| 10 | Ludhiana | 410 | 2 | 80 |
| 11 | Mansa | 104 | — | 9 |
| 12 | Patiala | 279 | 1 | 41 |
| 13 | Ropar | 183 | 1 | 30 |
| 14 | Sangrur | 266 | 1 | 64 |

* Newly formed district. Information regarding this district is included in Patiala.